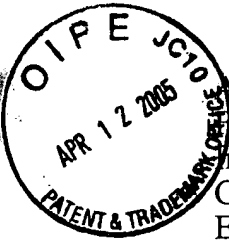


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Application Serial No.09/876,376
 Filing Date June 6, 2001
 Inventor..... John R. Douceur et al.
 Group Art Unit2154
 ExaminerHu, Jinsong
 Attorney's Docket No. MS1-769US
 Confirmation No.....8992
 Title: Locating Potentially Identical Objects Across Multiple Computers Based On
 Stochastic Partitioning of Workload

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MARCH 24, 2005

To: Commissioner for Patents
 PO Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

From: Allan T. Sponseller (Tel. 509-324-9256 x215; Fax 509-323-8979)
 Customer No. 22801

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of March 24, 2005, in connection with the above-identified application, the following remarks are submitted. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

A detailed listing of the claims is provided below. A status identifier is provided for each claim in a parenthetical expression following each claim number.